

BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

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The Morning of the Year

By C. C. Harbaugh

TO THE EAGER, WAITING NATIONS COMES THE MORNING OF THE YEAR FROM THE GLORY OF THE ORIENT APART. WITH GLAD BELLS ARE A-RINGING OUT THE SORROW AND THE TEAR, AND IN THE HOLLOWED LIP OF A STAR.

YOU CAN HEAR THE BELLS A-RINGING IN EARTH'S NEWEST JUBILEE WHERE THE GRACE TREES ARE SAYING IN THE SUN. FOR THE NEW YEAR THROWS HIS SMILES UPON THE MOUNTAIN AND THE SEA AND UPON THE GOLDEN RIVERS AS THEY RUN.

THE LILY BLOOMS IN BEAUTY IN THE EVER SHADELESS CLIME, BY THE NEW YEAR'S HANDS UNFOLDED IN THE MOON, AND ACROSS THE TISSUE OCEAN YOU CAN HEAR THE SWEET BELLS CHIME AS FOR EVERY HEART AN ERA NEW IS BORN.

MAIL THE QUEST THAT COMES A-SMILING DOWN THE PATHWAY OF THE STARS, IN THE HEAVEN-QUINDED BEAUTY OF HIS BIRTH.

NOT A JOY AMONG THE PEOPLE NOW HAVING COMING MARS, FOR HIS BRIGHTNESS LOVE AND PEACE TO ALL THE EARTH. THE OLD YEAR, BENT AND HOARY, SLOWLY PLITS ACROSS THE SNOW, WITH A WISTFUL LOOK BEHIND HIM EVEN NOW, AND HE SIGHS TO SEE THE NEW YEAR IN HIS BEAUTY AND HIS GLOW WITH THE HOLY BELLS OF MORNING ON HIS BROW.

OPEN THROUS HE EVERY PORTAL TO THE YEAR'S INITIAL OUST. FOR TO US HE GENTLY COMES TO BIDE A-WE. WELCOME HIM AMONG THE WILDETS, GREET HIM ON THE MOUNTAIN CREST, RING THE FAIR BELLS FOR HIS COMING ON THE SEA: HIS HANDS ARE FILLED WITH BLESSINGS FOR THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH NOT A CARE AND NOT A TROUBLE YET HE KNOWS, WHERE SORROW SEEMS TO LINGER HE WILL SET THE SEAL OF MIRTH, AND 'NEATH HIS FEET WILL BLOOM A FAIRER ROSE.

LOUDER SOUND THE BELLS OF WELCOME, LET THE ANTHEMS FLOAT AFAR TILL THE HEARTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE LIFT THE STRAIN, LET THE MUSIC OF HIS COMING REACH THE LOVE-LAND OF THE STAR AND BE ECHOED ON THE FAR CELESTIAL PLAIN.

HE COMES, THE BABY NEW YEAR, IN HARMONY OF WHITE, FAIR AND FRESH AS NATURE'S EVER DEWY WIFE, WITH THE WORLD'S WELCOME RINGING CLEARLY IN THE SOFT AND SWEET NIGHT THAT USHERS IN TIMES NEWEST, FAIRER BORN.

BIDE WITH US, O DAUGHTER COMER, TILL THE SNOW IS ON THY HAIR AND A STAMP IS IN THY HAND FOR JOURNEY FAR. TILL AGAIN WE WANT TO WELCOME FROM THE EAST ANOTHER YEAR AND NO LONGER GLOWS FOR THEE THE MORNING STAR.

COME INTO THE HEARTS OF GLADIATORS THAT HAVE WAITED FOR THEE LONG, BRING THE HAPPINESS AND PEACE THAT ALL SHOULD KNOW, AND THE WORLD WILL WELCOME WITH A GRAND, IMMORTAL SONG MID THE FALLING OF THE SNOW AND FLEET SNOW.

When the Year Begins

There is No Reason Why It Should Be on January First.

IT is a common saying that "there is a reason for everything, and usually a good one," yet no one has yet found any feasible ground for beginning the New Year with the first day of January. If it were made to occur in March, as the old Romans placed it, there might be some in it. It would be the more reasonable if it began March 22, the vernal equinox, for at the autumnal equinox (September 22), or June 22, or December 22. Excellent astronomical reasons could be assigned for such a reckoning.

Higher civilization is in the northern hemisphere; yet January in this part of the world is a season of cold and snow or chill and rain. It is a season when moving is not only inconvenient, but next to impossible. It is a time of the beginning of nothing, coming ten days after the winter solstice and 70 days before the spring equinox.

The day was chosen, probably, upon the assumption that any time is good enough for a general starting point, provided everybody agrees to it, and it will probably have to go at that. It is queer, though, that in setting back the beginning of the year two months, the names September, October, November and December should have been assigned to the months. These were at their origin implies, the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth months when the year began with March, but now that January is first, they are the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth months, respectively. Consequently they are decided misnomers. Yet there is no use of finding fault where no amount of it will correct the blunder complained of. It has been made and stuck down a mile-post of time by all the civilized nations, and no profane hand will be suffered to pull it up and set it forward. It has been followed by usage, and must be abided until the coming of another civilization.

Whatever its origin or causes, the day brings in with it thoughts and associations that should prove serious to the reflective mind. Unerringly as the clock records the passing minutes and hours, the New Year writes down the passage of the years as they come and go. The birth of the new is the death of the old year. It proclaims that the past is gone and cannot be resurrected. That time which was lost in it can never be regained; that follies committed, that sins indulged, that vices practiced, while past, have left their impress upon mind and character. It tells of good deeds that will never die, of many actions, of heroic suffering for the right. All of these are in the dead past, irrevocable, and useful only as the good done has made better and stronger the character, and evil done has made one less fitted to meet the duties and responsibilities of the hour.

The New Year suggests the beginning of things. It is a time of good remorse or sorrow for the past, and of good resolutions for the future. The trouble is that too many good resolutions are made in this first day of the year, and too many of them are broken. It may be well to purpose to do, but it is far better to do and to hold fast. Broken promises, whether made to self or to others, tend to lower character and render one more fertile in pledges to do, because of the very ease of breaking them.

The New Year is a time with husband men for casting up accounts. They figure out losses and gains for the year that is past, and upon the result lay plans for the year just begun. Here is serious work in which there can be no self-deception, no false hopes and no false pledges. Business is made up of fact, of work, of energy, of will. It will stand no false estimates and will not delude itself with idle fancies.

"The king is dead, live the king." The year is gone; the new year is on, and no go on our lives. Up and up, years, or many or few, as the case may be, each one bringing us nearer to the shores of that sea which is shoreless and that country in which time is not reckoned.

With the saddening and subduing reflections come those of cheer and good feeling, and we greet our friends with a "Happy New Year," happy. It may prove, if past errors and follies are corrected and each one lives, with brave heart, in the light that is given him. WILLIAM ROSSER COBBE.

Sure of a Call. Newitt—it seems the old custom of making New Year's calls has died out altogether. Borrowings—Not altogether. Our friend Mackley will surely make one on this year. A three months' note I gave him will fall due on that day—Philadelphia Press.

Getting Ready. "It seems to me," remarked the frank friend, "that you are hitting a pace that is a little too swift." "Not at all, not at all," replied the youth. "I am merely arranging for a suitable case of remorse to strengthen me in my usual New Year's resolution."—Chicago Post.

A New Year's Prospectus. We'll make good resolutions just as in seasons past. With the usual understanding—"Not guaranteed to last."—Washington Star.

MOTHERS, BE CAREFUL. of the health of your children. Look out for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough. Stop them in time. One Minute Cough Cure is the best remedy. Harmless and pleasant. Sold by the Louisa Drug Company.

Foley's Honey and Tar positively cures all throat and lung diseases. Rescues the voice. Sold by the Louisa Drug Company.

HAS FISH'S SECRET.

JANITOR CLAIMS DISCOVERY OF CAUSE OF ITS SPEED.

Finds Substance Similar to Covering of Scales Impervious to Water—Of Immense Value to Sea-Going Vessels.

Chicago.—The rapidity with which a fish can dart through the water caused Walter Freeman Ross, a janitor of this city, to investigate what gift of nature gave the fish such wonderful power. The natural conclusion was the slimy coating on the scales of the fish, but what did the coating consist of? Whatever it might be, it was impervious to water and the adherence of barnacles and other parasites of the deep.

If the component parts of the substance could be discovered and the principle applied to watercraft it would have a tendency to increase the speed at a saving in fuel and naturally bring about sharper competition in transportation and be a benefit of untold value commercially.

Mr. Ross, not being a practical chemist, found great difficulties in his research, but was undaunted, and from his investigations concluded the basic principle was glue. Ordinary glue will not withstand the action of water for any considerable time, so the knowledge of the other constituents was necessary, and this knowledge Ross claims to possess, but withholds it from the public pending a practical demonstration, when, he declares, he will give it to the world, provided his theories are correct. The discoverer claims that the combination will adhere to ship bottoms. If this is true and it proves impervious to barnacles and lasts for any length of time, its value to sea-going vessels cannot be calculated.

It is claimed that the combination is impervious to moisture and is a preservative. Here again its value is enormous to builders of ship scrapers.

The discoverer lacks opportunity to give a practical demonstration and wants some one to furnish a launch or other vessel on which experiments may be made.

The means, so far, for demonstration have been very primitive. A basswood boat was coated and subjected to the action of running water for 24 hours and at the end of that time no moisture had penetrated the coating.

A square stick of wood was partly coated and subjected to a similar test without any evidence of change in the thickness of the coating or any spreading.

The bottom of a steel shovel was covered and the combination without the friction of use in a coal hole for three days before it disappeared.

The inventor's idea of the value of his discovery may be classed under the head of theories, but if proven true, racing yachts will double their speed and automobile boats make a 60-mile gale look like a spring zephyr.

TOT IS A FINE VIOLINIST. Unusual Ability of Five-Year-Old New Jersey Youth—Bright Future Promised for Him.

Tacony, N. J.—Though only five years old, little James H. Livingston, of Tacony, has already achieved more than a local reputation as a violinist of unusual ability.

His first public appearances were made last fall as soloist with the Tacony orchestra at a musical given by the Ladies' auxiliary of the Tacony Episcopal church and with the same orchestra in the grand concert at Mennemonger hall, on November 21, where it won the second prize.

On both occasions the boy's playing surprised and delighted the audience, and it is freely predicted that a bright future lies before him.

James already showed evidence of possessing a natural talent for music. He could whistle any tune he heard, and soon learned to pick them out on the piano. About a year ago his parents placed him with Prof. George A. Ebbecke, believing that if the boy had real talent it was not too early to start developing it. Events have shown the wisdom of their action, for the boy showed a natural aptitude for the violin and improved daily in his knowledge of the technique. Prof. Ebbecke is proud of his young pupil and expects great things of him.

JAPS CARRY MANY TRIFLES. Soldiers in the Field Provided with Score of Things That Will Make Them Comfortable.

London.—Dr. Elmer McCall, who had just returned from Japan, has brought with him the complete outfit of a Japanese soldier of the Imperial Guard, as well as samples of the food supplied on active service. The king has inspected these articles with extreme interest, and certainly they show a minute and sagacious care for the Japanese "Tommy's" welfare that might afford useful suggestions to other nations.

The Japanese soldiers are even provided with such details as mosquito nets, warm boots and gloves (the latter hung by cords from the neck, so that they cannot be lost), a sheepskin waistcoat for cold weather, boots, lighter and of far superior make to those of the English army, a housewife, an identification label and a tin box of crescent pills. Dried vegetables, tea, salt and other wholesome commodities are supplied with the foodstuffs; the rice rations are ready boiled, and even fodder for the horses is prepared by drying.

Rich and Easy. The farmers of the United States, according to Secretary Wilson, have made money enough this year to pay off the national debt. Also to buy the Macaroni temple and see the explosion.

A THROAT OF GOOD. A. H. Thurner, a well known coal operator of Buffalo, O., writes "I have been afflicted with kidney trouble for years, passing gravel and stones with excruciating pain. I got no relief from medicine until I began taking Foley's Kidney Cure then the results were surprising. A few doses started the brick dust like fine stones and now I have no pain across my kidneys and I feel like a new man. It has done me a thousand dollars worth of good." Sold by Louisa Drug Co.

We have two good typewriters and will sell either at a bargain. One is new, the other only slightly used. Sold by Louisa Drug Company.

Two Surprises

By Eliza B. William

THE last day of the Old Year makes a fellow feel sort of reminiscent, doesn't it? said the man at the roll top desk. "The worst case of homesickness I ever had was brought on by encouraging that feeling." "I lived in Chicago then, and for some reason or other I hadn't visited the old farm for five years, though the old folks made an annual visit to me, and I made them enjoy it. Well, when the clock announced the last day of '98, I was sitting in a hotel lobby with a lot of traveling men. Every one of them had been a farmer's boy, and we fell to telling stories. We spoke of skating and swimming, forgetting frosted ears, chills, and the interview with ma when we came home late for supper and she felt our hair to see if it was wet. We lived over orchard roads—never referring to the painful memory of how we waited in the dark, when we climbed in at the window. We remembered the sweetness of stolen melons, overlooking what happened when old Thompson complained of us next day. By and by we were all homesick.

"Then a fellow from North Dakota spoke of the holidays on the old farm; I thought of the old folks with a lump in my throat the size of a prize pumpkin. Why, I hadn't written home for a month, and hadn't spent New Year's day there since I came to the city. Suddenly I resolved to go home and surprise them. The man from North Dakota said for two cents he'd go with me; he didn't know my mother, but he knew his own, and he'd risk his welcome. I offered him two cents.

"We could make it if we took the seven o'clock train in the morning, and that would bring us home when the lamps were lit and the smell of supper met you at the back door. The man from North Dakota hoped they'd have sausage, dried apple sauce and hot biscuits! He said I cured his dyspepsia to think of it.

"Before I slept I wired my brother Jim, who lived three miles from the old place, to meet us at the station, not letting the old folks know.

"It was snowing when we started, but that only made it seem more like New Year's. It snowed all day and our train kept losing time; but I only pitied Jim waiting at the station. We gave up the home supper and ate in the dining car. It was nine when we arrived, and the station master, a stranger, hadn't seen Jim! There was no hotel, but a traveling man offered us a lift to the cross roads. The man from North Dakota hoped the old folks hadn't gone to bed; I knew they had. It was further from the cross roads than I thought. We stopped talking, a stranger, hadn't seen Jim! There was no hotel, but a traveling man offered us a lift to the cross roads. The man from North Dakota hoped the old folks hadn't gone to bed; I knew they had. It was further from the cross roads than I thought. We stopped talking, a stranger, hadn't seen Jim! There was no hotel, but a traveling man offered us a lift to the cross roads. The man from North Dakota hoped the old folks hadn't gone to bed; I knew they had. 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